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FM AMEMBASSY RIYADH
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1774
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0301
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 4808
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0508
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY 2541
RUEHJI/AMCONSUL JEDDAH PRIORITY 0386
RUEHDH/AMCONSUL DHAHRAN PRIORITY 0287
RUEHLH/AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY 0050
RUSBPW/AMCONSUL PESHAWAR PRIORITY 0186

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 RIYADH 001415

SIPDIS

EO 12958 DECL: 10/21/2019
TAGS SA, PK, AF, PREL, PGOV

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR ON MILITARY OPERATIONS IN
FATA; SAUDI RELATIONS
RIYADH 00001415 001.2 OF 002

Classified By: Ambassador James B. Smith for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

SUMMARY:

1. (C) During an Oct. 20 courtesy call with the Ambassador, Pakistani Ambassador Umar Khan Alisherzai highlighted the success of recent military operations in WAZIRISTAN: "REASONABLE RESISTANCE, BUT NOT AS MUCH AS WE EXPECTED"

2. (C) Alisherzai described the Pakistani military operations in Waziristan as "progressing well," adding that they had encountered "reasonable resistance" in the SWAT VALLEY: A SUCCESS STORY?

3. (C) Alisherzai pointed to the military's advances against the Taliban in the Swat Valley as one example of success in the region. The cooperation between the military and civilian leaders was "truly working in tandem for the first time," Alisherzai was disappointed that the Pakistanis were not doing more.

4. (C) While upbeat that Pakistan's military and civilian leaders were "truly working in tandem for the first time," Alisherzai was disappointed that the Pakistanis were not doing more. "WE NEED MORE ARMS, AMMO AND PLANES"

5. (C) In response to the Ambassador's question about support from CentCom, Alisherzai replied that the U.S. "does a lot for Pakistan." However, the U.S. is not doing enough to help Pakistan rebuild its economy and infrastructure. REBUILDING OLD RELATIONSHIPS

6. (C) When asked about the Saudi-Pakistani relationship, Alisherzai admitted that it had been strained since Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari took office. The Saudis were more concerned with their own internal problems than with the problems of Pakistan.

IRAN

7. (C) Alisherzai accused Russia of "fully supporting the Iranians' nuclear program," adding that all Shia communities in the region supported Iran. INDIA: "WE ARE NOT EXPECTING ANYTHING GOOD"

8. (C) Alisherzai blamed India for helping to train and fund extremist groups fighting against the Government of Pakistan. He said that India was the root of the problem. THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

9. (C) Asked how to stop terrorism and extremism in Pakistan, Alisherzai said that the people living in the tribal areas "don't know the value of peace." COMMENT:

10. (C) Alisherzai is from the Kurram Agency, one of the seven tribal agencies that make up the Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) along the border with Afghanistan. BIOGRAPHIC NOTE

11. (C) Alisherzai grew up in the FATA bordering the Afghanistan provinces of Khowst and Paktya. His father served in the British military and was a member of the FATA's legislative assembly.